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Control: 1231
Rec'd: June 2, 1954 11 p.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 871, June 2, 7 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUN - 3 1954

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While editorials in Guatemalan independent press supported government's stand on arms issue, these columns have since returned to attack on Communists and expressed opinion Communists' interests in Honduran strike is interventionist. Several columns appealed to Arbenz to purge Communists or asked that Communists voluntarily withdraw from government. (Editorialists obviously do not expect either government or Communists to take suggested action; they use this form as veiled means of attacking government). For example, EL ESPECTADOR called for rapid and effective rectification of situation by government and "authentic parties" and said further defense of Communism would be criminal.

Mario Sandoval Figueroa, columnist in PRENSA LIBRE thought Communists would "continue being the fundamental cause of the thorn situation which confronts the country and even of the loss of all the conquests legitimately won by the revolution of October. Its pernicious influence will continue making itself felt in the other official parties, from which it undoubtedly will win a greater number of Congressional seats in the coming elections".

EL IMPARCIAL noted appeals to Communists had been answered with insults and slander. Columnist Federico Gonzalez Campo in IMPACTO said Arbenz "seems not to see nor hear nor read, giving credence to the rumor that those around him keep him isolated and let him see only what they want him to see".

Government press has cited Arbenz' answers to Associated Press questionnaire as further evidence of government's peace and non-interventionist policy. PRENSA LIBRE today considered it more feasible to send capable Ambassador to Washington but recommended both countries heed Arbenz' call for mutual understanding and respect.

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